

**ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE • 106 HALSEY STREET • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102 • (201) 642-4047

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Main Office  
106 HALSEY STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102  
TEL: (201) 642-8080

September 30, 1986

Mr. Joseph A. Furfay  
Manager  
First Jersey National Bank  
One Exchange Place  
Jersey City, N.J. 07302

Dear Mr. Furfay:

ASPIRA wants to thank First Jersey National Bank for its past support of our programs in Leadership Development, Health Careers, Talent Search, and Business Careers, and to give you an update on ASPIRA's achievements in the 1985-86 program year.

Last year ASPIRA served 1,553 Hispanic and minority students and placed approximately 300 in post-secondary institutions and graduate schools across the United States. The majority however, have to attend institutions within the state because of the financial benefits of going to a local institution.

In 1986 our students (ASPIRANTES), participated in a new ASPIRA Public Policy Program in conjunction with ASPIRA of America. This program got Hispanic high school students involved in the decision making processes that affect their city and schools districts. Twenty-five students studied policy issues and held meetings with elected officials to discuss the impact of their policies on youth. The students then planned and implemented a youth conference in Newark that brought together 200 students from throughout New Jersey to discuss and define concerns. They then developed an action plan to involve themselves in critical issues such as the drop-out rate, federal aid to students, safety in the schools and the policies and practices of the Boards of Education. Congressman Peter Rodino was so impressed with the students involved that he sponsored their graduation ceremony held in the Rayburn Building of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. at the end of July.

A new staff member was hired to recruit Newark students who have already dropped-out of school and get them reenrolled in high school or enrolled in a GED (General Equivalency Diploma) program. In addition, the older students are assisted with job training placement. Thus far the counselor has successfully worked with more than 45 drop-outs.

ASPIRA has begun a drop-out study which will give a true figure as to the drop-out rate of Hispanics in Newark. The two year study, funded by the Social Science Research Council of New York, will not only provide figures but will also outline solutions to the problem by measuring how economic and social circumstances affect the drop-out rate. The study's advisory board represents a cross section of the major segments of the Newark community. (see attached list)

Our enclosed Annual Report details other program areas in the three counties ASPIRA serves.

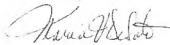
ASPIRA continues to provide educational counseling, community service and leadership development to hundreds of Hispanic students in Essex, Hudson, and Passaic Counties.

Last year First Jersey National Bank contributed \$1,500 towards ASPIRA's programs. This year ASPIRA respectfully requests a contribution of \$2,500 to continue its necessary work.

I am enclosing the annual report, a financial audit and a list of private grants and contributions, for your review.

Please call me if you need any additional information. Thanking you in advance for your support, I remain

Sincerely Yours,

  
Maria Vizcarrondo-DeSoto  
Executive Director

*Jan 1  
of the contents  
in the envelope  
please see above  
attached to the  
envelope  
Thank you*

Encl.